



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JAMES E. RISCH
Governor
PATRICK A. TAKASUGI
Director / Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 18, 2006

CONTACT: Wayne Hoffman
(208) 332-8671

Idaho Preferred® companies win awards

Idaho Preferred® companies are winning awards for their quality foods and wines, and their innovations in manufacturing.

The prestigious American Cheese Society (ACS) recently presented Ballard Family Dairy and Cheese of Gooding a first place award for its specialty cheddar at ACS' Festival of Cheese. This year, the competition had a record-breaking 941 entries – nearly 200 more than any previous ACS competition. The competition featured 157 producers representing 28 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. In addition, the company took home a first place ribbon for its Pepper Cheddar and a second place award for its Idaho Garlic Herb cheese. Steve and Stacie Ballard were also recognized at this event last year – their first year in the business.

Idaho wines also continue to gain recognition. Indian Creek Winery of Kuna recently brought home gold medals from the 2006 Northwest Wine Summit for its 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2005 White Riesling and Best of Idaho. The winery also won silver medals for its 2004 Pinot Noir, 2004 Star Garnet and 2004 Syrah.

Idaho Preferred® companies are even winning awards for their production techniques. Litehouse Foods of Sandpoint was recently awarded the Spirit of Continuous Innovation Award by TechHelp and its governing organization, the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP). The award is given to a company that has made product and process innovations that have created positive economic impacts in the areas of employment, investment and bottom-line savings and sales. Litehouse makes sauces, dressings and dips.

Idaho Preferred®, a program administered by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, promotes the availability, diversity and quality of locally-grown agriculture products.

###